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SECTION II – Soil and Site Information

TABLE of CONTENTS – Soil and Site Information – Continued:

Introduction
Soil and Site Information

Section II provides information about the soils of the counties of Arkansas. This information, which includes limitations, potentials, and soil properties, is useful in making decisions about land use and management.

A brief description of section contents follows:

Introductory Information

In this subsection, an explanation of soil interpretations and their use is provided.

Soils Information from NASIS

The basis for this section is the Data Map Unit which is stored in the National Soil Information System (NASIS). NASIS contains the most up-to-date information for each map unit which has been edited or tailored by state and area specialists to represent local ranges in the data.

Soil Legends

This subsection includes a list of the soil map units in the county and the acreage and proportional extent of each map unit.

Nontechnical Soil Descriptions

In this subsection the soils are described in lay terms.

Technical Soil Descriptions

The technical soil descriptions are referenced to the published soil survey or the soil survey manuscript if the soil survey is complete, but not yet published.

Interpretations

These subsections contain soil interpretations for:
- Cropland
- Rangeland, Grazed Forestland, Native Pastureland
- Forestland
- Nonagricultural
- Recreation

INTRODUCTION – Soil and Site Information

- Wildlife
- Pastureland and Hayland
- Mined Land
- Windbreak
- Engineering
- Waste Disposal
- Hydric Soil
- Water Quantity and Quality

Most of the soils information is presented in the form of tables and
arranged alphabetically by map unit name. Explanatory text precedes the tables in the hardcopy version. Explanatory text follows for the web-based version.

SOIL and SITE INFORMATION

Information from the National Soil Information System (NASIS) will be used as a basis for this section in Arkansas. NASIS contains current information for each map unit which has been edited or tailored by state and area specialists to represent local ranges in the data. State and area specialists will provide detailed interpretations of soils in Section II.

Interpretations are specific to the soils identified and mapped in the soil survey area. Map units to which interpretations apply are clearly identified by name, symbol/s, or both. New map unit names and symbols resulting from reclassification of soils are cross-referenced to old names and symbols and shown on a list.

Soils are to be described and interpreted to help make decisions about use and management of land. Soil characteristics that limit or affect land use and management are to be identified, and soils are to be rated according to capability, limitations, potential, and/or suitability.

This information is available in the NASIS. **A copy of the interpretative material is on file in Section II of the Field Office Technical Guide in each county.**

USE and EXPLANATION of SOIL INTERPRETATIONS

The basis for this section is the Data Map Unit, which is stored in the National Soil Information System (NASIS). NASIS contains the most up-to-date information for each soil map unit, which has been edited or tailored by state and area specialists to represent local ranges in the data.

Soil survey interpretations are predictions of soil behavior for specified land uses and specified management practices. They are based on the soil properties that directly influence the specified use of the soil. Soil survey interpretations allow users of soil surveys to plan reasonable alternatives for the use and management of soils. They are used to plan both broad categories of land use, such as cropland, pastureland, rangeland, woodland, or urban development, as well as specific elements of those land uses, for example, equipment use in woodland management, irrigation of cropland, or septic tank absorption fields.

When soil interpretations are used in connection with delineated soil areas on soil maps, the information pertains to the soil for which the soil area is named. Other soils that are in areas too small to map may occur within the delineated area. The interpretations ordinarily do not apply to the included soils. More detailed studies are required if small, specific sites are to be developed or used within a given soil delineation. For example, a soil delineation bearing the name Loring silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes, also can include small, unmappable areas of other soils, such as Galloway and Henry soils. The interpretations apply to the Loring part of the delineated soil area and not to the included soils.

Soil interpretations will not eliminate the need for onsite study and testing of specific sites for the design and construction for specific uses. They can be used as a guide to planning more detailed investigations and for avoiding undesirable sites for an intended use. The soil map and interpretations can be used to select sites that have the least limitations for an intended use. No consideration was given in these interpretations to the shape and size of soil delineations nor to the pattern they form with other soils on the landscape. For example, some very desirable soil areas are too small, too irregular in shape, or occur with less desirable soils in a pattern too complex for the intended use. Although not considered in the interpretations, these items should influence the final selection of a site.

KEY PHRASES USED in SOIL INTERPRETATIONS

Soil interpretations typically list the degree of limitation or suitability and factors affecting use of the soil for agricultural and nonagricultural purposes. The interpretations apply to the soils in their natural site (unless indicated otherwise) and not for areas that are altered by cut or fill operations.

Rating classes developed for interpretations in NASIS are expressed in the tables in terms that indicate the extent to which the soils are limited or not limited by all of the soil features that affect a specified use. Terms for the limitation classes are **not limited**, **slightly limited**, **moderately limited**, **limited**, and **very limited**. In certain tables, the soils are rated as improbable, possible, or probable sources of specific materials used for construction materials.

Not limited indicates that the soil has features that are favorable for the specified use. Good performance and very low maintenance can be expected.

Slightly limited indicates that the soil has features that are favorable for the specified use. The limitations are minor and can be easily overcome. Good performance and low maintenance can be expected.

Moderately limited indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning, design, or installation. Fair performance and moderate maintenance can be expected.

Limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are significant limitations for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome, but generally require special design, soil reclamation, or installation procedures that may result in additional expense. Fair performance and moderate to high maintenance can be expected.

Very limited indicates the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified use. The limitations generally cannot be overcome without major soil reclamation, special design, or expensive installation procedures. Poor performance and high maintenance can be expected.

Numerical Ratings

Numerical ratings in the tables indicate the severity of individual limitations. They also indicate the overall degree to which a soil is limited or not limited for a specific use. The numerical ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.00 to 1.00. Limitation classes are assigned as follows:

Not limited	0.00
Slightly limited	0.01 to 0.30

Moderately limited	0.31 to 0.60
Limited	0.61 to 0.99
Very limited	1.00

The numerical ratings used to express the severity of individual limitations indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the use and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation.

In tables that use limitation class terms, such as very limited or limited, the limitation class terms and numerical ratings are shown for each limiting soil feature listed. As many as three soil features may be listed for each map unit component. The overall limitation rating for the component is based on the most severe limitation.

Explanation of key phrases used are as follows:

Factors affecting:	**Explanation**
Area reclaim	Borrow areas hard to reclaim.
Cemented pan	Cemented pan to close too surface.
Complex slope	Slopes short and irregular.
Cutbanks cave	Wall of cuts not stable.
Deep to water	Deep to permanent water table during dry season.
Dense layer	Avery firm layer difficult to dig.
Depth to rock	Bedrock too close to surface.
Droughty	Soil cannot hold enough water.
Dusty	Soil particles detach easily and cause dust.
Erodes easily	Water erodes soil easily.
Excess fines	Contains too much silt and clay.
Excess gypsum	Contains too much gypsum.
Excess humus	Contains too much organic matter.
Excess lime	Carbonates restrict plant growth.
Excess salt	Water-soluble salts may restrict plant growth.
Excess sodium	Contains too much exchangeable sodium.
Excess sulphur	Excessive amount of sulphur in the soil may cause
Fast intake	Water infiltrates rapidly.
Favorable	Features of soil favorable.
Flooding	Soil temporarily floods by stream overflow, runoff, or high tide.
Fragile	Soil that is easily damaged by use or disturbance.
Frost action	Freezing and thawing can damage structures.
Hard to pack	Difficult to compact.
Low strength	Soil not strong enough to adequately support loads.
No water	Too deep to ground water.
Percs slowly	Water moves through the soil too slowly.

Piping	Water may form tunnels or pipe like cavities in the soil.
Ponding	Standing water on soils in closed depressions.
Poor filter	Because of rapid permeability, the soil may not adequately filter effluent.
Poor outlets	Difficult or expensive to install outlets for drainage.
Rooting depth	Soil is thin over layer that greatly restricts root growth.
Seepage	Water moves through soil or fractured bedrock too fast.
Shrink-swell	Soil expands significantly on wetting and shrinks on drying.
Slippage	Soil mass susceptible to movement down slope, when loaded, excavated, or wet.
Slope	Slope is too great.
Slow intake	Water infiltration restricted.
Slow refill	Ponds fill slowly because of restricted soil permeability.
Small stones	Contains many rock fragments less than 10 inches across.
Soil blowing	Soil easily moved by wind.
Subsides	Settle of organic soils or of soil containing semifluid layers.
Thin layer	Inadequate thickness of suitable soil.
Too acid	Soil is so acid that growth of plants is restricted.
Too arid	Soil is too dry most of the time.
Too clayey	Soil slippery and sticky when wet and slow to dry.

SOIL LEGENDS

Soil legends are specific to each soil survey area. Current legends are maintained in the soil legends subsection of Section II of the Field Office Technical Guide in each county office.

This subsection contains the following:

Legend by Symbol
Acreage and Proportionate Extent of Soils

LEGEND BY SYMBOL

The Legend by Symbol table provides a list of the soil map units that are described in the county and its representative symbol. Current legends are maintained in the in the Field Office Technical Guide in each county office or the soil survey manual for those counties without a published soil survey.

ACREAGE AND PROPORTIONATE EXTENT OF SOILS

The Acreage and Proportionate Extent of Soils table provides a list of the soil map units, the acreage of the map unit, and its proportionate extent within the county of the soil map units which are described in the county. Current legends are maintained in the in the Field Office Technical Guide in each county office.

SOIL DESCRIPTIONS

This section contains descriptions of the soil properties of the soil map units within the county. These descriptions can be used for management considerations specific to a soil map unit or group of map units. Nontechnical soil descriptions are written in terminology that nontechnical users of soil survey information can understand. Technical descriptions are more detailed descriptions of the properties of the soil. Many of the technical terms used in the descriptions are defined in Soil Taxonomy.

This subsection contains the following:

Nontechnical Soil Descriptions
Technical Soil Descriptions

NONTECHNICAL SOIL DESCRIPTIONS

Nontechnical soil descriptions describe soil properties or management considerations specific to a soil map unit or group of map units. These descriptions are written in terminology that nontechnical users of soil survey information can understand.

Nontechnical soil descriptions are a powerful tool for creating reports. These high quality, easy to read reports can be generated by conservation planners and other NRCS employees for distribution to land users. Soil map unit descriptions and soil data map units are the basis for these descriptions.

The following categories or land uses are examples of descriptions which are commonly used in Arkansas.

Descriptions:

AGR - agronomic: cropland pastureland

SOI - soil characteristics

WOO - woodland

WQL - water quality

TECHNICAL SOIL DESCRIPTIONS

In this subsection, each soil series recognized in the county is described. Characteristics of the soil and the material in which it formed are identified for each series. The soil is compared with similar soils and with nearby soils of other series. A pedon, a small three-dimensional area of soil, that is typical of the series in the survey area is described. The detailed description of each soil horizon follows standards in the Soil Survey Manual. Many of the technical terms used in the descriptions are defined in Soil Taxonomy. Following the pedon description is the rage of important characteristics of the soil series in this county.

These descriptions are usually not filed in the FOTG, but are found in the published soil survey for the county, or in the soil survey manual.

CROPLAND INTERPRETATIONS

Information in this subsection can be used to plan the use and management of soil for crops or pasture. Conservation planners and others using this information can evaluate the effect of specific crops on productivity and on the environment in all or part of the county. This information can be used to maintain or create a land use pattern that is in harmony with the natural soil.

This subsection contains the following:

Prime Farmland List
Highly Erodible List
Land Capability Classification
Crop Yield Estimates
RUSLE Related Attributes
Additional Farmland of Statewide Importance

PRIME FARMLAND LIST

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of chemical and physical characteristics for producing feed, fiber, food, forage, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses *(the land could be cropland, forestland, pastureland, rangeland, or other land, but not urban built-up land or water)*. It has the growing season, moisture supply, and soil quality needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when managed and treated, including water management, according to acceptable farming methods.

In general, prime farmlands have an acceptable acidity or alkalinity, salt and sodium content; adequate and dependable water supply from irrigation or precipitation; a favorable growing season and temperature; and few or no rocks. They are permeable to air and water. Prime farmlands are not excessively erodible or saturated with water for a long period of time, and they either do not flood frequently or are protected from flooding.

Soils that have limitations, such as flooding or a high water table, may qualify as prime farmland if these limitations are overcome by such measures as drainage or flood control. The measures needed to overcome the limitations of a map unit, if any, are shown in parenthesis after the map unit name.

HIGHLY ERODIBLE LIST – 1990 FROZEN LEGEND

General

The basis for identifying highly erodible land is the erodibility index of a soil map unit. The erodibility index of a soil is determined by dividing the potential erodibility for each soil by the soil loss tolerance (T) value established for the soil. The T value represents the maximum annual rate of soil erosion that could take place without causing a decline in long-term productivity. A soil map unit with an erodibility index of 8 or more is a highly erodible soil map unit.

Water Erosion

Potential erodibility for sheet and rill erosion is estimated by multiplying the following factors of the Universal Soil Loss Equation *(LISLE):*

1. Rainfall and runoff factor (R)
2. Susceptibility of the soil to water erosion (K)
3. Combined effects of slope length and steepness (LS)

The erodibility index for sheet and rill erosion is represented by the formula RKL,S/T. A soil map unit is highly erodible if the LS factor for the shortest length and minimum percent of slope is used and the RKLS/T value equals or exceeds 8.

A soil map unit is potentially highly erodible if: (1) the RKLS/T value using the minimum LS factor is less than 8; and (2) the RKLS/T value using the maximum LS factor is equal to or greater than 8.

Wind Erosion

Potential erodibility from wind erosion is estimated by multiplying the following factors of the Wind Erosion Equation (WEQ).

1. Climatic characterization of wind speed and surface soil moisture (C)
2. The susceptibility of the soil to wind erosion (I)

The erodibility index for wind erosion is represented by the formula CI/T. A soil map unit is highly erodible if the CI/T value equals or exceeds 8.

Explanation of codes used in the Highly Erodible Lands Report	
Code:	**Description:**
3	Soil does not meet the requirements for Highly Erodible Lands.
2	Range of soil characteristics for the soil as mapped, fall within and outside of the requirements for Highly Erodible Lands.
1	Soil meets the requirements for Highly Erodible Lands.

LAND CAPABILITY CLASSIFICATION

Land capability classification shows, in a general way, the suitability of soils for most kinds of field crops. Crops that require special management are excluded. The soils are grouped according to their limitations for field crops, the risk of damage if they are used for crops, and the way they respond to management. The criteria used in grouping the soils do not include major and generally expensive landforming that would change slope, depth, or other characteristics of the soils, nor do they include possible but unlikely major reclamation projects. Capability classification is not a substitute for interpretations designed to show suitability and limitations of groups of soils for rangeland, for forestland, or for engineering purposes.

In the capability system, soils are generally grouped at three levels=capability class, subclass, and unit.

Capability classes, the broadest groups, are designated by the numbers 1 through 8. The numbers indicate progressively greater limitations and narrower choices for practical use. The classes are defined as follows:

Class 1 soils have slight limitations that restrict their use.

Class 2 soils have moderate limitations that restrict the choice of plants or that require moderate conservation practices.

Class 3 soils have severe limitations that restrict the choice of plants or that require special conservation practices, or both.

Class 4 soils have very severe limitations that restrict the choice of plants or that require very careful management, or both.

Class 5 soils are subject to little or no erosion but have other limitations, impractical to remove, that restrict their use mainly to pasture, rangeland, forestland, or wildlife habitat.

Class 6 soils have severe limitations that make them generally unsuitable for cultivation and that restrict their use mainly to pasture, rangeland, forestland, or wildlife habitat.

Class 7 soils have very severe limitations that make them unsuitable for cultivation and that restrict their use mainly to grazing, forestland, or wildlife habitat.

Class 8 soils and miscellaneous areas have limitations that preclude commercial plant production and that restrict their use to recreational purposes, wildlife habitat, watershed, or esthetic purposes.

Capability subclasses are soil groups within one class. They are designated by adding a small letter, e, w, s, or c, to the class numeral, for example, 2e. The letter e shows that the main hazard is the risk of erosion unless close-growing plant cover is maintained; w shows that water in or on the soil interferes with plant growth or cultivation (in some soils the wetness can be partly corrected by artificial drainage); s shows that the soil is limited mainly because it is shallow, droughty, or stony; and c, used in only some parts of the United States, shows that the chief limitation is climate that is very cold or very dry.

In class 1 there are no subclasses because the soils of this class have few limitations. Class 5 contains only the subclasses indicated by w, s, or c because the soils in class 5 are subject to little or no erosion. They have other limitations that restrict their use to pasture, rangeland, forestland, wildlife habitat, or recreation.

The acreage of soils in each capability class or subclass is shown in table B. The capability classification of map units in this survey area is given in the section "Detailed Soil Map Units" and in the yields table.

Soil legends are specific to each soil survey area. Current legends are maintained in the soil legends subsection of Section II of the Field Office Technical Guide in each county office.

RUSLE RELATED ATTRIBUTES

Data attributes for the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) are contained in the table RUSLE Related Attributes. The RUSLE equation uses the hydrologic soil group, the soil loss tolerance (T) values, the susceptibility of the soil to water erosion (Kw), and the percent sand, silt, and clay of the surface horizon. The T value represents the maximum annual rate of soil erosion that could take place without causing a decline in long-term productivity. A soil map unit with an erodibility index of 8 or more is a highly erodible soil map unit.

The Hydrologic Soil Group, designated A, B, C, or D, is a group of soils having the same runoff potential under similar cover and storm conditions. Soil properties that influence runoff potential are those that influence the minimum rate of infiltration for a bare soil after prolonged wetting and when not frozen. These properties are depth to seasonally high water table, intake rate, and permeability after prolonged wetting, and depth to very slowly permeable layer. The influence of ground cover is treated independently -- not in hydrologic soil groups.

Class definitions

Infiltration rate - is the rate at which water enters the soil at the surface and is controlled by surface conditions.

Transmission rate - is the rate at which water moves in the soil and which is controlled by the horizons.

Group A
Soils having high infiltration rates, even when thoroughly wetted and consisting chiefly of deep, well-drained- to excessively drained sands or gravels, have a high rate of water transmission (low *runoff potential).*

Group B
Soils having moderate infiltration rates when thoroughly wetted and consisting chiefly of moderately deep or deep, moderately well or well drained soils with moderately fine to moderately coarse textures, have a moderate rate of water transmission.

Group C
Soils having slow infiltration rates when thoroughly wetted, consisting chiefly of: ()) soils with a layer that impedes the downward movement of water, or (2) soils with moderately one or fine textures and slow infiltration rate, have a slow rate of water transmission.

Group D
Soils having very slow infiltration rates when thoroughly wetted, consisting chiefly of:

(1) clayey sods with high swelling capacity or potential, (2) soils with a high permanent water table, (3) soils with a claypan or clay layer at or near the surface, and (4) shallow soils over nearly impervious materials, have a very slow rate of water transmission *(high runoff potential).*

RANGELAND, GRAZED FORESTLAND, NATIVE PASTURELAND INTERPRETATIONS

Information in this subsection can be used to plan the use and management of soils for rangeland, grazed forestland, and native pasture. Different kinds of soils vary in their capacity to produce native grasses and other plants suitable for grazing. Information in this subsection provides estimates of potential forage production and groupings of similar soils, which can be used to determine livestock stocking rates.

Definitions:

Rangeland* Range is land on which the native vegetation (climax or *natural potential, plant community)* is predominantly forbs, grasses, grasslike plants, and shrubs suitable for browsing and grazing. Range includes some deserts, certain forb and shrub communities, natural grasslands, savannas, tundra, and many wetlands. Rangeland receives no regular or frequent cultural treatment. The composition and production of the plant community are determined by climate, grazing management, overstory canopy, soil, and topography.

Grazed Forestland: Includes land on which the understory includes, as an integral part of the forest plant community, plants that can be grazed without significantly impairing other forest values.

Native Pasture: Includes land on which the potential (climax) vegetation is forest but which is used and managed primarily for production of native plants for forage. Native pasture includes cut-over forestland and forestland cleared and now managed for native or naturalized forage plants.

This subsection, in areas where rangeland is applicable, should contain *(at a* minimum) the following:

Rangeland Productivity Table
Range Site Descriptions

If available, the information in this section can be found in the Field Office Technical Guide Section II located at the Field Service Center.

FORESTLAND INTERPRETATIONS

The tables in this section can help forest owners or managers plan the use of soils for wood crops. Potential productivity of the soils for wood crops is provided in table E1. Interpretive ratings are provided for various aspects of forest management in tables FOR-1, FOR-2, FOR-3, and FOR-4.

This subsection contains the following:

Forest Productivity
Woodland Management

FOREST PRODUCTIVITY

In this section, the **potential productivity** of merchantable or **common tree***s* on a soil is expressed as a site index and as a volume number. The **site index** is the average height, in feet, that dominant and codominant trees of a given species attain in a specified number of years. The site index applies to fully stocked, even-aged, unmanaged stands. Commonly grown trees are those that forest managers generally favor in intermediate or improvement cuttings. They are selected on the basis of growth rate, quality, value, and marketability. More detailed information regarding site index is available in the "National Forestry Manual," which is available in local offices of the Natural Resources Conservation Service or on the Internet.

The **volume of wood fiber**, a number, is the yield likely to be produced by the most important trees. This number, expressed as cubic feet per acre per year and calculated at the age of culmination of the mean annual increment (CMAI), indicates the amount of fiber produced in a fully stocked, even-aged, unmanaged stand.

Trees to manage are those that are preferred for planting, seeding, or natural regeneration and those that remain in the stand after thinning or partial harvest.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

In tables FOR-1, FOR-2, FOR-3 and FOR-4, interpretive ratings are given for various aspects of forest management. The ratings in the tables are both verbal and numerical. Rating class terms indicate the extent to which the soils are limited by all of the soil features that affect the specified aspect of forest management. Not limited indicates that the soil has features that are very favorable for the specified aspect of management. Good performance and very low maintenance can be expected. Slightly limited indicates that the soil has features that are favorable for the specified aspect of management. The limitations are minor and can be easily overcome. Good performance and low maintenance can be expected. Moderately limited indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for the specified aspect of management. The limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning, design, or installation. Fair performance and moderate maintenance can be expected. Limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are significant limitations for the specified aspect of management. The limitations can be overcome, but overcoming them generally requires special design, special planning, soil reclamation, specialized equipment, or other procedures that may result in additional expense. Fair performance and moderate or high maintenance can be expected. Very limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified aspect of management. The limitations generally cannot be overcome without major soil reclamation, special design, specialized equipment, or other expensive procedures. Poor performance, unsafe conditions, or high maintenance can be expected.

Numerical ratings in the tables indicate the severity of individual limitations. The numerical ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.00 to 1.00. Limitation classes are assigned as follows:

Not limited	0.00
Slightly limited	0.01 to 0.30
Moderately limited	0.31 to 0.60
Limited	0.61 to 0.99
Very limited	1.00

The numerical ratings used to express the severity of individual limitations indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the use and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation.

Limitation class terms and numerical ratings are shown for each limiting soil feature listed. As many as three soil features may be listed for each component. The overall limitation class for the component is based on the most severe limitation.

The paragraphs that follow indicate the soil properties considered in rating the soils for forest management factors. More detailed information about the criteria used in the ratings is available in the "National Forestry Manual," which is available in local

offices of the Natural Resources Conservation Service or through the Agency's Website.

Ratings in the column hand planting are based on slope, depth to a restrictive layer, content of sand, plasticity index, rock fragments on or below the surface, depth to a water table, and ponding. Ratings indicate the expected difficulty of hand planting, which includes the proper placement of root systems of tree seedlings to a depth of up to 12 inches, using standard hand planting tools. It is assumed that necessary site preparation is completed before seedlings are planted.

Ratings in the column mechanical planting are based on slope, depth to a restrictive layer, content of sand, plasticity index, rock fragments on or below the surface, depth to a water table, and ponding. Ratings indicate the expected difficulty in using a mechanical planter, which includes proper placement of root systems of tree seedlings to a depth of up to 12 inches. It is assumed that necessary site preparation is completed before seedlings are planted.

Ratings in the column harvest equipment are based on slope, rock fragments on the surface, plasticity index, content of sand, surface texture, depth to a water table, and ponding. Ratings indicate the suitability for operating harvest equipment for off-road transport or harvest of logs and/or wood products by ground-based wheeled or tracked equipment.

Ratings in the column mechanical site preparation (surface) are based on slope, depth to a restrictive layer, plasticity index, rock fragments on or below the surface, depth to a water table, and ponding. The part of the soil from the surface to a depth of about 12 inches is considered in the ratings. Ratings indicate the suitability of using surface-altering soil tillage equipment to prepare the site for planting or seeding.

Ratings in the column roads (natural surface) are based on slope, rock fragments on the surface, plasticity index, content of sand, surface texture, depth to a water table, ponding, flooding, and the hazard of soil slippage. The ratings indicate the suitability for using the natural surface of the soil for roads on which trucks transport logs and other wood products from the site.

In table FOR-2, ratings in the column erosion on roads and trails are based on the soil erodibility factor K, slope, and content of rock fragments. The ratings apply to unsurfaced roads and trails.

Ratings in the column off-road or off-trail erosion are based on slope and on the soil erodibility factor K. The soil loss is caused by sheet or rill erosion in off-road or off-trail areas where 50 to 75 percent of the surface has been exposed by logging, grazing, mining, or other kinds of disturbance.

Ratings in the column soil rutting are based on depth to a water table, rock fragments on or below the surface, surface texture, depth to a restrictive layer, and slope. Ruts form as a result of the operation of forest equipment. Ratings indicate

limitations affecting the hazard or risk of ruts in the uppermost layers of the soil. Soil displacement and puddling (soil deformation and compaction) may occur simultaneously with
the formation of ruts.

Ratings in the column log landings are based on slope, rock fragments on the surface, plasticity index, content of sand, surface texture, depth to a water table, ponding, flooding, and the hazard of soil slippage. Ratings indicate the suitability of the soil at the forest site to serve as a log landing and to allow the efficient and effective use of equipment for the temporary storage and handling of logs.

Ratings in the column seedling survival are based on flooding, ponding, depth to a water table, content of lime, reaction, salinity, available water capacity, soil moisture regime, soil temperature regime, aspect, and slope. Ratings indicate the impact of soil, physiographic, and climatic conditions on the survivability of newly established tree seedlings.

NONAGRICULTURAL INTERPRETATIONS

Information in this section can be used to plan the use and management of soils for nonagricultural uses; such as, sites for buildings, sanitary facilities, highways and other transportation systems, and parks and other recreational facilities; and for wildlife habitat. It can be used to identify the potentials and limitations of each soil for specific land uses and to help prevent construction failures caused by unfavorable soil properties.

Planners and others using soil survey information can evaluate the effect of specific land uses on productivity and on the environment in all or part of the survey area. The survey can help planners to maintain or create a land use pattern that is in harmony with nature.

Contractors can use this survey to locate sources of sand and gravel, roadfill, and topsoil. They can use it to identify areas where bedrock, wetness, or very firm soil layers can cause difficulty in excavation.

Health officials, highway officials, engineers, and others may also find this survey useful. The survey can help them plan the safe disposal of wastes and locate sites for pavements, sidewalks, campgrounds, playgrounds, lawns, and trees and shrubs.

Interpretive Ratings

The interpretive tables in this survey rate the soils in the survey area for various uses. Many of the tables identify the limitations that affect specified uses and indicate the severity of those limitations. The ratings in these tables are both verbal and numerical.

Rating Class Terms

Rating classes are expressed in the tables in terms that indicate the extent to which the soils are limited or not limited by all of the soil features that affect a specified use. Terms for the limitation classes are not limited, slightly limited, moderately limited, limited, and very limited. In certain tables, the soils are rated as improbable, possible, or probable sources of specific materials used for construction materials.

Numerical Ratings

Numerical ratings in the tables indicate the severity of individual limitations. They also indicate the overall degree to which a soil is limited or not limited for a specific use. The numerical ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.00 to 1.00. Limitation classes are assigned as follows:

Not limited	0.00
Slightly limited	0.01 to 0.30
Moderately limited	0.31 to 0.60
Limited	0.61 to 0.99
Very limited	1.00

The numerical ratings used to express the severity of individual limitations indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the use and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation.

In tables that use limitation class terms, such as very limited or limited, the limitation class terms and numerical ratings are shown for each limiting soil feature listed. As many as three soil features may be listed for each map unit component. The overall limitation rating for the component is based on the most severe limitation.

This subsection contains the following:

Building Site Development
Construction Materials

BUILDING SITE DEVELOPMENT

Soil properties influence the development of building sites, including the selection of the site, the design of the structure, construction, performance after construction, and maintenance. Tables ENG-3 and ENG-4 shows the degree and kind of soil limitations that affect dwellings with and without basements, small commercial buildings, local roads and streets, and lawns and landscaping.

The ratings in the table are both verbal and numerical. Rating class terms indicate the extent to which the soils are limited by all of the soil features that affect building site development. Not limited indicates that the soil has features that are very favorable for the specified use. Good performance and very low maintenance can be expected. Slightly limited indicates that the soil has features that are favorable for the specified use. The limitations are minor and can be easily overcome. Good performance and low maintenance can be expected. Moderately limited indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning, design, or installation. Fair performance and moderate maintenance can be expected. Limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are significant limitations for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome, but overcoming them generally requires special design, soil reclamation, or installation procedures that may result in additional expense. Fair performance and moderate or high maintenance can be expected. Very limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified use. The limitations generally cannot be overcome without major soil reclamation, special design, or expensive installation procedures. Poor performance and high maintenance can be expected.

Numerical ratings in the table indicate the severity of individual limitations. The numerical ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.00 to 1.00. Limitation classes are assigned as follows:

Not limited	0.00
Slightly limited	0.01 to 0.30
Moderately limited	0.31 to 0.60
Limited	0.61 to 0.99
Very limited	1.00

The numerical ratings used to express the severity of individual limitations indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the use and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation.

Limitation class terms and numerical ratings are shown for each limiting soil feature listed. As many as three soil features may be listed for each component. The overall limitation rating for the component is based on the most severe limitation.

Dwellings are single-family houses of three stories or less. For dwellings without basements, the foundation is assumed to consist of spread footings of reinforced concrete built on undisturbed soil at a depth of 2 feet or at the depth of maximum frost penetration, whichever is deeper. For dwellings with basements, the foundation is assumed to consist of spread footings of reinforced concrete built on undisturbed soil at a depth of about 7 feet. The ratings for dwellings are based on the soil properties that affect the capacity of the soil to support a load without movement and on the properties that affect excavation and construction costs. The properties that affect the load-supporting capacity include a water table, ponding, flooding, subsidence, linear extensibility (shrink-swell potential), and compressibility. Compressibility is inferred from the Unified classification. The properties that affect the ease and amount of excavation include a water table, ponding, flooding, slope, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, hardness of bedrock or a cemented pan, and the amount and size of rock fragments.

Small commercial buildings are structures that are less than three stories high and do not have basements. The foundation is assumed to consist of spread footings of reinforced concrete built on undisturbed soil at a depth of 2 feet or at the depth of maximum frost penetration, whichever is deeper. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect the capacity of the soil to support a load without movement and on the properties that affect excavation and construction costs. The properties that affect the load-supporting capacity include a water table, ponding, flooding, subsidence, linear extensibility (shrink-swell potential), and compressibility (which is inferred from the Unified classification). The properties that affect the ease and amount of excavation include flooding, a water table, ponding, slope, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, hardness of bedrock or a cemented pan, and the amount and size of rock fragments.

Local roads and streets have an all-weather surface and carry automobile and light truck traffic all year. They have a subgrade of cut or fill soil material; a base of gravel, crushed rock, or soil material stabilized by lime or cement; and a surface of flexible material (asphalt), rigid material (concrete), or gravel with a binder. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect the ease of excavation and grading and the traffic-supporting capacity. The properties that affect the ease of excavation and grading are depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, hardness of bedrock or a cemented pan, a water table, ponding, flooding, the amount of large stones, and slope. The properties that affect the traffic-supporting capacity are soil strength (as inferred from the AASHTO group index number), subsidence, linear extensibility (shrink-swell potential), the potential for frost action, a water table, and ponding.

Lawns and landscaping require soils on which turf and ornamental trees and shrubs can be established and maintained. Irrigation is not considered in the ratings. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect plant growth and trafficability after vegetation is established. The properties that affect plant growth are reaction; a water table; ponding; depth to bedrock or a cemented pan; the available water capacity in the upper 40 inches; the content of salts, sodium, or calcium carbonate; and sulfidic materials. The properties that affect trafficability are flooding, a water table, ponding, slope, stoniness, and the amount of sand, clay, or organic matter in the surface layer.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

The soils of the survey area are rated in table ENG-1 and ENG-2 as a source of roadfill, sand, gravel, or topsoil. Normal compaction, minor processing, and other standard construction practices are assumed. The soils are also rated according to limitations that affect their suitability for shallow excavations. The ratings in the table are both verbal and numerical.

Rating class terms, as follows, are used to indicate the extent to which the soils are limited by soil features that affect their use as a source for roadfill, sand, gravel, or topsoil or their suitability for shallow excavations. Not limited indicates that the soil has features that are very favorable for the specified use. Good performance and very low maintenance can be expected. Slightly limited indicates that the soil has features that are favorable for the specified use. The limitations are minor and can be easily overcome. Good performance and low maintenance can be expected. Moderately limited indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning, design, or installation. Fair performance and moderate maintenance can be expected. Limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are significant limitations for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome, but overcoming them generally requires special design, soil reclamation, or installation procedures that may result in additional expense. Fair performance and moderate or high maintenance can be expected. Very limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified use. The limitations generally cannot be overcome without major soil reclamation, special design, or expensive installation procedures. Poor performance and high maintenance can be expected.

Numerical ratings in the table indicate the severity of individual limitations. The numerical ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.00 to 1.00. Limitation classes are assigned as follows:

Not limited	0.00
Slightly limited	0.01 to 0.30
Moderately limited	0.31 to 0.60
Limited	0.61 to 0.99
Very limited	1.00

The numerical ratings used to express the severity of individual limitations indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the use and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation.

Limitation class terms and numerical ratings are shown for each limiting soil feature listed. As many as three soil features may be listed for each component. The overall limitation rating for the component is based on the most severe limitation.

Roadfill is soil material that is excavated in one place and used in road embankments in another place. In this table, the soils are rated as a source of roadfill for low embankments, generally less than 6 feet high and less exacting in design than higher embankments.

The ratings are for the whole soil, from the surface to a depth of about 5 feet. It is assumed that soil layers will be mixed when the soil material is excavated and spread.

The ratings are based on the amount of suitable material and on soil properties that affect the ease of excavation and the performance of the material after it is in place. The thickness of the suitable material is a major consideration. The ease of excavation is affected by large stones, a water table, and slope. How well the soil performs in place after it has been compacted and drained is determined by its strength (as inferred from the AASHTO classification of the soil) and linear extensibility (shrink-swell potential).

Sand and gravel are natural aggregates suitable for commercial use with a minimum of processing. They are used in many kinds of construction. Specifications for each use vary widely. In the table, only the probability of finding material in suitable quantity is evaluated. The suitability of the material for specific purposes is not evaluated, nor are factors that affect excavation of the material. The properties used to evaluate the soil as a source of sand or gravel are gradation of grain sizes (as indicated by the Unified classification of the soil), the thickness of suitable material, and the content of rock fragments. If the lowest layer of the soil contains sand or gravel, the soil is rated as a probable source regardless of the thickness. The assumption is that the sand or gravel layer below the depth of observation exceeds the minimum thickness.

Topsoil is used to cover an area so that vegetation can be established and maintained. The upper 40 inches of a soil is evaluated for use as topsoil. Also evaluated is the reclamation potential of the borrow area. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect plant growth; the ease of excavating, loading, and spreading the material; and reclamation of the borrow area. Toxic substances, soil reaction, and the properties that are inferred from soil texture, such as available water capacity and fertility, affect plant growth. The ease of excavating, loading, and spreading is affected by rock fragments, slope, a water table, soil texture, and thickness of suitable material. Reclamation of the borrow area is affected by slope, a water table, rock fragments, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, and toxic material.

The surface layer of most soils is generally preferred for topsoil because of its organic matter content. Organic matter greatly increases the absorption and retention of moisture and nutrients for plant growth.

Shallow excavations are trenches or holes dug to a maximum depth of 5 or 6 feet for basements, graves, utility lines, open ditches, or other purposes. The ratings are based on the soil properties that influence the ease of digging and the resistance to sloughing.

Depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, hardness of bedrock or a cemented pan, the amount of large stones, and dense layers influence the ease of digging, filling, and compacting. Depth to the seasonal high water table, flooding, and ponding may restrict the period when excavations can be made. Slope influences the ease of using machinery. Soil texture, depth to the water table, and linear extensibility (shrink-swell potential) influence the resistance to sloughing.

RECREATION

The ratings in the tables are based on restrictive soil features, such as wetness, slope, and texture of the surface layer. Susceptibility to flooding is considered. Not considered in the ratings, but important in evaluating a site, are the location and accessibility of the area, the size and shape of the area and its scenic quality, vegetation, access to water, potential water impoundment sites, and access to public sewer lines. The capacity of the soil to absorb septic tank effluent and the ability of the soil to support vegetation also are important. Soils that are subject to flooding are limited for recreational uses by the duration and intensity of flooding and the season when flooding occurs. In planning recreational facilities, onsite assessment of the height, duration, intensity, and frequency of flooding is essential.

The ratings in the table are both verbal and numerical. Rating class terms indicate the extent to which the soils are limited by all of the soil features that affect recreational site development. Not limited indicates that the soil has features that are very favorable for the specified use. Good performance and very low maintenance can be expected. Slightly limited indicates that the soil has features that are favorable for the specified use. The limitations are minor and can be easily overcome. Good performance and low maintenance can be expected. Moderately limited indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning, design, or installation. Fair performance and moderate maintenance can be expected. Limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are significant limitations for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome, but overcoming them generally requires special design, soil reclamation, or installation procedures that may result in additional expense. Fair performance and moderate or high maintenance can be expected. Very limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified use. The limitations generally cannot be overcome without major soil reclamation, special design, or expensive installation procedures. Poor performance and high maintenance can be expected.

Numerical ratings in the table indicate the severity of individual limitations. The numerical ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.00 to 1.00. Limitation classes are assigned as follows:

Not limited	0.00
Slightly limited	0.01 to 0.30
Moderately limited	0.31 to 0.60
Limited	0.61 to 0.99
Very limited	1.00

The numerical ratings used to express the severity of individual limitations indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on

the use and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation.

Limitation class terms and numerical ratings are shown for each limiting soil feature listed. As many as three soil features may be listed for each component. The overall limitation rating for the component is based on the most severe limitation.

The information in these tables can be supplemented by other information in this survey, for example, interpretations for building site development, construction materials, sanitary facilities, and water management.

Camp areas require site preparation, such as shaping and leveling the tent and parking areas, stabilizing roads and intensively used areas, and installing sanitary facilities and utility lines. Camp areas are subject to heavy foot traffic and some vehicular traffic. The soil properties that affect the performance of the areas after development are those that influence trafficability and promote the growth of vegetation, especially in heavily used areas. For good trafficability, the surface of camp areas should absorb rainfall readily, remain firm under heavy foot traffic, and not be dusty when dry. The soil properties that influence trafficability are texture of the surface layer, a water table, ponding, flooding, permeability, and large stones. The soil properties that affect the growth of plants are depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, permeability, and toxic substances in the soil.

Picnic areas are subject to heavy foot traffic. Most vehicular traffic is confined to access roads and parking areas. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect the ease of developing picnic areas and that influence trafficability and the growth of vegetation after development. Slope and stoniness are the main concerns affecting the development of picnic areas. For good trafficability, the surface of picnic areas should absorb rainfall readily, remain firm under heavy foot traffic, and not be dusty when dry. The soil properties that influence trafficability are texture of the surface layer, a water table, ponding, flooding, permeability, and large stones. The soil properties that affect the growth of plants are depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, permeability, and toxic substances in the soil.

Playgrounds require soils that are nearly level, are free of stones, and can withstand intensive foot traffic. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect the ease of developing playgrounds and that influence trafficability and the growth of vegetation after development. Slope and stoniness are the main concerns affecting the development of playgrounds. For good trafficability, the surface of the playgrounds should
absorb rainfall readily, remain firm under heavy foot traffic, and not be dusty when dry. The soil properties that influence trafficability are texture of the surface layer, a water table, ponding, flooding, permeability, and large stones. The soil properties that affect the growth of plants are depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, permeability, and toxic substances in the soil.

Paths and trails for hiking and horseback riding should require little or no cutting

and filling. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect trafficability and erodibility. These properties are stoniness, a water table, ponding, flooding, slope, and texture of the surface layer. The best soils are not wet, are firm after rains, are not dusty when dry, and are not subject to frequent flooding during the period of use. They have moderate slopes and few or no stones or boulders on the surface.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Soils affect the kind and amount of vegetation that is available to wildlife as food and cover. They also affect the construction of water impoundments. The kind and abundance of wildlife depend largely on the amount and distribution of food, cover, and water. Wildlife habitat can be created or improved by planting appropriate vegetation, by maintaining the existing plant cover, or by promoting the natural establishment of desirable plants.

In tables WIL-1, WIL-2, WIL-3, and WIL-4, the soils in the survey area are rated according to their potential for providing habitat for various kinds of wildlife. This information can be used in planning parks, wildlife refuges, nature study areas, and other developments for wildlife; in selecting soils that are suitable for establishing, improving, or maintaining specific elements of wildlife habitat; and in determining the intensity of management needed for each element of the habitat.

The ratings in the tables are both verbal and numerical. Rating class terms indicate the extent to which the soils are limited by all of the soil features that affect the specified use. Not limited indicates that the soil has features that are very favorable for the specified use. Habitat is easily established, improved, or maintained. Slightly limited indicates that the soil has features that are favorable for the specified use. The limitations are minor and can be easily overcome. Habitat can be established, improved, or maintained. Moderately limited indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for the specified use. Habitat can be established, improved, or maintained in most places. Moderately intensive management is required for satisfactory results. Limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are significant limitations for the specified use. Habitat is difficult to create, improve, or maintain in most places. Management is difficult and must be very intensive. Very limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified use. Habitat is usually impractical or impossible to create, improve, or maintain. Management would be very difficult, and unsatisfactory results can be expected.

Numerical ratings in the tables indicate the severity of individual limitations. The numerical ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.00 to 1.00. Limitation classes are assigned as follows:

Not limited	0.00
Slightly limited	0.01 to 0.30
Moderately limited	0.31 to 0.60
Limited	0.61 to 0.99
Very limited	1.00

The numerical ratings used to express the severity of individual limitations indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on

the use and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation.

Limitation class terms and numerical ratings are shown for each limiting soil feature listed. As many as three soil features may be listed for each component. The overall limitation class for the component is based on the most severe limitation.

The elements of wildlife habitat are described in the following paragraphs.

Grain and seed crops are domestic grains and seed-producing herbaceous plants. Soil properties and features that affect the growth of grain and seed crops are depth of the root zone, texture of the surface layer, available water capacity, wetness, slope, surface stoniness, and flooding. Soil temperature and soil moisture are also considerations. Selection should be made from a list of locally adapted species.

Grasses and legumes are domestic perennial grasses and herbaceous legumes. Soil properties and features that affect the growth of grasses and legumes are depth of the root zone, texture of the surface layer, available water capacity, wetness, surface stoniness, flooding, and slope. Soil temperature and soil moisture are also considerations. Selection should be made from a list of locally adapted species.

Upland wild herbaceous plants are native or naturally established grasses and forbs, including weeds. Soil properties and features that affect the growth of these plants are depth of the root zone, texture of the surface layer, available water capacity, wetness, surface stoniness, and flooding. Soil temperature and soil moisture are also considerations. Selection should be made from a list of locally adapted species.

Upland shrubs and vines are bushy woody plants that produce fruit, buds, twigs, bark, and foliage. Soil properties and features that affect the growth of shrubs and vines are depth of the root zone, available water capacity, salinity, and soil moisture. Selection should be made from a list of locally adapted species.

Upland deciduous trees and woody understory produce nuts or other fruit, buds, catkins, twigs, bark, and foliage. Soil properties and features that affect the growth of hardwood trees are depth of the root zone, available water capacity, and wetness. Selection should be made from a list of locally adapted species.

Upland mixed deciduous-conifer trees and woody understory produce nuts or other fruit, buds, catkins, twigs, bark, browse, seeds and foliage. Soil properties and features that affect the growth of these trees are depth of the root zone, available water capacity, and wetness. Selection should be made from a list of locally adapted species.

Riparian herbaceous plants are annual and perennial native or naturally established grasses and forbs that grow on moist or wet sites. Soil properties and features affecting riparian herbaceous plants are surface texture, wetness, flooding, ponding, and surface stones. Selection should be made from a list of locally adapted species.

Riparian shrubs, vines, and trees are bushy woody plants and trees that grow on moist or wet sites. Soil properties and features affecting these plants are surface texture, wetness, flooding, ponding, and surface stones. Selection should be made from a list of locally adapted species.

Freshwater wetland plants are grasses, forbs, and shrubs that are adapted to wet soil conditions. The soils suitable for this habitat generally occur adjacent to springs, seeps, depressions, bottomlands, marshes, or backwater areas of flood plains. Most areas are ponded for some period of time during the year. Soil properties and features affecting these plants are surface texture, wetness, ponding, and soil reaction. Selection should be made from a list of locally adapted species.

Irrigated freshwater wetland plants are grasses, forbs, and shrubs that are adapted to wet soil conditions. The soils suitable for this habitat generally occur in areas of cropland, previously cropped areas, and marginal areas associated with cropland and wetlands. These areas may be ponded for some period of time during the year. These areas are generally suitable for restoring wetland features temporarily or permanently. Soil properties and features affecting these plants are surface texture, permeability, wetness, ponding, and soil reaction. Selection should be made from a list of locally adapted species.

PASTURE AND HAYLAND INTERPRETATIONS

This subsection provides information concerning the suitability of soils for the production of pasture and hayland. This subsection may contain pasture and hayland suitability groupings, land capability and yield estimates, yield estimates for individual grasses or legumes, or other information pertaining to the production of forage.

Pasture and Hayland Suitability Groupings

Soils are placed in pasture and hayland groups according to their suitability for the production of forage. The soils in each group are enough alike to be suited to the same grasses or legumes, to have similar limitations and hazards, to require similar management, and to have similar productivity and other responses to management. Thus, the pasture and hayland suitability group is a convenient way of grouping the soils for their management. If used, these groupings are identified and described in this subsection.

Yield Estimates

The average yields per acre that can be expected of the principal pasture or hayland crops, under a high level of management, are presented in this subsection. In any given year, yields may be lower or higher than those indicated in the tables because of variations in rainfall or other climatic factors. The yields are based mainly on the experience and records of conservationists, extension agents, and farmers. Available yield data from nearby counties and results of demonstrations and field trials are also considered.

Under good management, proper grazing is essential for erosion control, production of high quality forage, and stand survival. Proper grazing helps plants maintain sufficient and generally vigorous top growth during the growing season. Brush control is essential in many areas, and weed control generally is needed. Renovation and rotation grazing are also important management practices.

Yield estimates are often provided in animal unit months (AUM) or the amount of feed or forage required to feed one animal unit *(one cow, one horse, one mule, five goats, or five sheep)* for 30 days.

MINED LAND INTERPRETATIONS

Soil reconstruction of areas drastically disturbed, as in surface mining, is the process of replacing layers of soil material or unconsolidated geologic material or both in a vertical sequence of such quality and thickness that they provide a favorable medium for plant growth.

Most new **state** strip mine programs emphasize that the land surface be restored to about its natural configuration or better and the soil be reconstructed to improve or maintain its suitability for the intended use. Thus, a knowledge of the soil and underlying material is needed to plan proper reconstruction operations of mined land. It may be necessary to rate the A horizon, the B horizon, and the C horizon separately to determine the suitability of each segment for reconstruction. If they all rate good, there may be little justification for keeping them separate for soil reconstruction. If the A horizon is rated better than the B or C, then it should generally be kept separate, depending upon its thickness and the anticipated use of the land.

When soil materials are properly used in reconstruction, a rating of good means vegetation is relatively easy to establish and maintain, the surface is stable and resists erosion, and the reconstructed soil has good potential productivity. Material rated fair can be vegetated and stabilized by modifying one or more properties. Topdressing with better material or application of soil amendments may be necessary for satisfactory performance. Material rated poor has such severe problems that revegetation and stabilization are very costly and difficult. Topdressing with better material is necessary to establish and maintain vegetation.

Interpretations for mined land reclamation, revegetation, and maintenance are locally developed. These interpretations should be placed m this subsection. Reference should be made to any existing state or local guides for reclamation, revegetation, and maintenance of mined lands.

See table 603-25 in part 603 of the National Soils Handbook for rating soil reconstruction material for drastically disturbed areas.

WINDBREAK INTERPRETATIONS

Windbreaks protect buildings, livestock, and yards from snow and wind. They also protect fruit trees and gardens, and they furnish habitat for wildlife. Several rows of low and high growing broadleaf and coniferous shrubs and trees provide the most protection.

Field windbreaks are narrow plantings made at right angles to the prevailing wind and at specific intervals across the field. The interval depends on the erodibility of the soil. Field windbreaks protect cropland and crops from wind, help to keep snow on the fields, and provide cover and food for wildlife.

Windbreaks are often planted on land that did not grow trees originally. Knowledge of how trees perform on such land can be gained only by observing and recording their performance where trees have been planted and survived. The problem is compounded by the fact that many favorite windbreak species are not indigenous to the areas m which they are planted.

Each shrub or tree species has certain climatic and physiographic limits. Within these parameters a shrub or tree may be poorly suited or well because of soil characteristics. Each shrub or tree also has definable potentials of height growth depending on the factors just mentioned. Accurate definitions of potential heights are necessary for proper windbreak planning and design.

Information in this subsection, which includes windbreak suitability groups and windbreak and environmental plantings table, can be used as a guide in planning windbreaks and screens.

ENGINEERING INTERPRETATIONS

Soil properties relating to engineering interpretations are determined by field examination of the soils and by laboratory index testing of some benchmark soils. Established standard procedures are followed. During the survey, many shallow borings are made and examined to identify and classify the soils and to delineate them on the soil maps. Samples are taken from some typical profiles and tested in the laboratory to determine grain-size distribution, plasticity, and compaction characteristics.

Estimates of soil properties are based on field examinations, on laboratory tests of samples from the survey area, and on laboratory tests of samples of similar soils in nearby areas. Tests verify field observations, verify properties that cannot be estimated accurately by field observation, and help to characterize key soils. Pertinent soil and water features also are provided in this section.

Tables in this subsection include the following:

Physical Properties of the Soils
Chemical Properties of the Soils
Engineering Index Properties
Water Features
Soil Features

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF THE SOILS

This section shows estimates of some physical characteristics and features that affect soil behavior. These estimates are given for the layers of each soil in the survey area. The estimates are based on field observations and on test data for these and similar soils.

Depth to the upper and lower boundaries of each layer is indicated.

Particle size is the effective diameter of a soil particle as measured by sedimentation, sieving, or micrometric methods. Particle sizes are expressed as classes with specific effective diameter class limits. The broad classes are sand, silt, and clay, ranging from the larger to the smaller.

Sand as a soil separate consists of mineral soil particles that are 0.05 millimeter to 2 millimeters in diameter. In the table, the estimated sand content of each soil layer is given as a percentage, by weight, of the soil material that is less than 2 millimeters in diameter.

Silt as a soil separate consists of mineral soil particles that are 0.002 to 0.05 millimeter in diameter. In the table, the estimated silt content of each soil layer is given as a percentage, by weight, of the soil material that is less than 2 millimeters in diameter.

Clay as a soil separate consists of mineral soil particles that are less than 0.002 millimeter in diameter. In the table, the estimated clay content of each soil layer is given as a percentage, by weight, of the soil material that is less than 2 millimeters in diameter.

The content of sand, silt, and clay affects the physical behavior of a soil. Particle size is important for engineering and agronomic interpretations, for determination of soil hydrologic qualities, and for soil classification.

The amount and kind of clay affect the fertility and physical condition of the soil and the ability of the soil to adsorb cations and to retain moisture. They influence shrink-swell potential, permeability, plasticity, the ease of soil dispersion, and other soil properties. The amount and kind of clay in a soil also affect tillage and earthmoving operations.

Moist bulk density is the weight of soil (ovendry) per unit volume. Volume is measured when the soil is at field moisture capacity, that is, the moisture content at <bf>1/3<xb>- or <bf>1/10<xb>-bar (33kPa or 10kPa) moisture tension. Weight is determined after the soil is dried at 105 degrees C. In the table, the estimated moist bulk density of each soil horizon is expressed in grams per cubic centimeter of soil material that is less than 2 millimeters in diameter. Bulk density data are used to compute shrink-swell potential, available water capacity, total pore space, and other soil properties. The moist bulk density of a soil indicates the pore space available for water and roots. Depending on soil texture, a bulk density of more than 1.4 can restrict water storage and root penetration. Moist bulk density is influenced by texture, kind of clay, content of organic matter, and soil structure.

Saturated hydraulic conductivity refers to the ability of a soil to transmit water or air. The term "permeability,"as used in soil surveys, indicates saturated hydraulic conductivity (K<->sat <p>). The estimates in the table indicate the rate of water movement, in micrometers per second (um/sec), when the soil is saturated. They are based on soil characteristics observed in the field, particularly structure, porosity, and texture. Permeability is considered in the design of soil drainage systems and septic tank absorption fields.

Available water capacity refers to the quantity of water that the soil is capable of storing for use by plants. The capacity for water storage is given in inches of water per inch of soil for each soil layer. The capacity varies, depending on soil properties that affect retention of water. The most important properties are the content of organic matter, soil texture, bulk density, and soil structure. Available water capacity is an important factor in the choice of plants or crops to be grown and in the design and management of irrigation systems. Available water capacity is not an estimate of the quantity of water actually available to plants at any given time.

Linear extensibility refers to the change in length of an unconfined clod as moisture content is decreased from a moist to a dry state. It is an expression of the volume change between the water content of the clod at <bf>1/3<xb>- or <bf>1/10<xb>-bar tension (33kPa or 10kPa tension) and oven dryness. The volume change is reported in the table as percent change for the whole soil. Volume change is influenced by the amount and type of clay minerals in the soil.

Linear extensibility is used to determine the shrink-swell potential of soils. The shrink-swell potential is low if the soil has a linear extensibility of less than 3 percent; moderate if 3 to 6 percent; high if 6 to 9 percent; and very high if more than 9 percent. If the linear extensibility is more than 3, shrinking and swelling can cause damage to buildings, roads, and other structures and to plant roots. Special design commonly is needed.

Organic matter is the plant and animal residue in the soil at various stages of decomposition. In the table, the estimated content of organic matter is expressed as a percentage, by weight, of the soil material that is less than 2millimeters in diameter.

The content of organic matter in a soil can be maintained by returning crop residue to the soil. Organic matter has a positive effect on available water capacity, water infiltration, soil organism activity, and tilth. It is a source of nitrogen and other nutrients for crops and soil organisms.

Erosion factors are shown in the table as the K factor (Kw and Kf) and the T factor. Erosion factor K indicates the susceptibility of a soil to sheet and rill erosion by water. Factor K is one of six factors used in the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) and the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) to predict the average annual rate of soil loss by sheet and rill erosion in tons per acre per year. The estimates are based primarily on percentage of silt, sand, and organic matter and on soil structure and permeability.

Values of K range from 0.02 to 0.69. Other factors being equal, the higher the value, the more susceptible the soil is to sheet and rill erosion by water.

Erosion factor Kw indicates the erodibility of the whole soil. The estimates are modified by the presence of rockfragments.

Erosion factor Kf indicates the erodibility of the fine-earth fraction, or the material less than 2 millimeters insize.

Erosion factor T is an estimate of the maximum average annual rate of soil erosion by wind or water that can occur without affecting crop productivity over a sustained period. The rate is in tons per acre per year.

Wind erodibility groups are made up of soils that have similar properties affecting their susceptibility to wind erosion in cultivated areas. The soils assigned to group 1 are the most susceptible to wind erosion, and those assigned to group 8 are the least susceptible. The groups are as follows:

1. Coarse sands, sands, fine sands, and very fine sands.

2. Loamy coarse sands, loamy sands, loamy fine sands, loamy very fine sands, ash material, and sapric soil material.

3. Coarse sandy loams, sandy loams, fine sandy loams, and very fine sandy loams.

4L. Calcareous loams, silt loams, clay loams, and silty clay loams.

4. Clays, silty clays, noncalcareous clay loams, and silty clay loams that are more than 35 percent clay.

5. Noncalcareous loams and silt loams that are less than 20 percent clay and sandy clay loams, sandy clays, and hemic soil material.

6. Noncalcareous loams and silt loams that are more than 20 percent clay and noncalcareous clay loams that are less than
35 percent clay.

7. Silts, noncalcareous silty clay loams that are less than 35 percent clay, and fibric soil material.

8. Soils that are not subject to wind erosion because of coarse fragments on the surface or because of surface wetness.

Wind erodibility index is a numerical value indicating the susceptibility of soil to wind erosion, or the tons per acre per year that can be expected to be lost to wind erosion. There is a close correlation between wind erosion and the texture of the surface layer, the

size and durability of surface clods, rock fragments, organic matter, and a calcareous reaction. Soil moisture and frozen soil layers also influence wind erosion.

CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF THE SOILS

This section shows estimates of some chemical characteristics and features that affect soil behavior. These estimates are given for the layers of each soil in the survey area. The estimates are based on field observations and on test data for these and similar soils.

Depth to the upper and lower boundaries of each layer is indicated.

Cation-exchange capacity is the total amount of extractable bases that can be held by the soil, expressed in terms of milliequivalents per 100 grams of soil at neutrality (pH 7.0) or at some other stated pH value. Soils having a low cation-exchange capacity hold fewer cations and may require more frequent applications of fertilizer than soils having a high cation-exchange capacity. The ability to retain cations reduces the hazard of ground-water pollution.

Effective cation-exchange capacity refers to the sum of extractable bases plus aluminum expressed in terms of milliequivalents per 100 grams of soil. It is determined for soils that have pH of less than 5.5.

Soil reaction is a measure of acidity or alkalinity. The pH of each soil horizon is based on many field tests. For many soils, values have been verified by laboratory analyses. Soil reaction is important in selecting crops and other plants, in evaluating soil amendments for fertility and stabilization, and in determining the risk of corrosion.

Calcium carbonate equivalent is the percent of carbonates, by weight, in the fraction of the soil less than 2 millimeters in size. The availability of plant nutrients is influenced by the amount of carbonates in the soil. Incorporating nitrogen fertilizer into calcareous soils helps to prevent nitrite accumulation and ammonium-N volatilization.

Gypsum is expressed as a percent, by weight, of hydrated calcium sulfates in the fraction of the soil less than 20 millimeters in size. Gypsum is partially soluble in water. Soils that have a high content of gypsum may collapse if the gypsum is removed by percolating water.

Salinity is a measure of soluble salts in the soil at saturation. It is expressed as the electrical conductivity of the saturation extract, in millimhos per centimeter at 25 degrees C. Estimates are based on field and laboratory measurements at representative sites of nonirrigated soils. The salinity of irrigated soils is affected by the quality of the irrigation water and by the frequency of water application. Hence, the salinity of soils in individual fields can differ greatly from the value given in the table. Salinity affects the suitability of a soil for crop production, the stability of soil if used as construction material, and the potential of the soil to corrode metal and concrete.

Sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) is a measure of the amount of sodium (Na) relative to calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) in the water extract from saturated soil paste. It is the

ratio of the Na concentration divided by the square root of one-half of the Ca + Mg concentration. Soils that have SAR values of 13 or more may be characterized by an increased dispersion of organic matter and clay particles, reduced permeability and aeration, and a general degradation of soil structure.

ENGINEERING INDEX PROPERTIES

This section gives estimates of the engineering classification and of the range of index properties for the major layers of each soil in the survey area. Most soils have layers of contrasting properties within the upper 5 or 6 feet.

Depth to the upper and lower boundaries of each layer is indicated.

Texture is given in the standard terms used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These terms are defined according to percentages of sand, silt, and clay in the fraction of the soil that is less than 2 millimeters in diameter. "Loam," for example, is soil that is 7 to 27 percent clay, 28 to 50 percent silt, and less than 52 percent sand. If the content of particles coarser than sand is as much as about 15 percent, an appropriate modifier is added, for example, "gravelly."

Classification of the soils is determined according to the Unified soil classification system (ASTM, 1993) and the system adopted by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO, 1986).

The **Unified system** classifies soils according to properties that affect their use as construction material. Soils are classified according to grain-size distribution of the fraction less than 3 inches in diameter and according to plasticity index, liquid limit, and organic matter content. Sandy and gravelly soils are identified as GW, GP, GM, GC, SW, SP, SM, and SC; silty and clayey soils as ML, CL, OL, MH, CH, and OH; and highly organic soils as PT. Soils exhibiting engineering properties of two groups can have a dual classification, for example, CL-ML.

The **AASHTO system** classifies soils according to those properties that affect roadway construction and maintenance. In this system, the fraction of a mineral soil that is less than 3 inches in diameter is classified in one of seven groups from A-1 through A-7 on the basis of grain-size distribution, liquid limit, and plasticity index. Soils in group A-1 are coarse grained and low in content of fines (silt and clay). At the other extreme, soils in group A-7 are fine grained. Highly organic soils are classified in group A-8 on the basis of visual inspection.

If laboratory data are available, the A-1, A-2, and A-7 groups are further classified as A-1-a, A-1-b, A-2-4, A-2-5, A-2-6, A-2-7, A-7-5, or A-7-6. As an additional refinement, the suitability of a soil as subgrade material can be indicated by a group index number. Group index numbers range from 0 for the best subgrade material to 20 or higher for the poorest. The AASHTO classification for soils tested, with group index numbers in parentheses, is given in table ____.

Rock fragments larger than 10 inches in diameter and 3 to 10 inches in diameter are indicated as a percentage of the total soil on a dry-weight basis. The percentages are

estimates determined mainly by converting volume percentage in the field to weight percentage.

Percentage (of soil particles) passing designated sieves is the percentage of the soil fraction less than 3 inches in diameter based on an ovendry weight. The sieves, numbers 4, 10, 40, and 200 (USA Standard Series), have openings of 4.76, 2.00, 0.420, and 0.074 millimeters, respectively. Estimates are based on laboratory tests of soils sampled in the survey area and in nearby areas and on estimates made in the field.

Liquid limit and **plasticity index** (Atterberg limits) indicate the plasticity characteristics of a soil. The estimates are based on test data from the survey area or from nearby areas and on field examination.

The estimates of grain-size distribution, liquid limit, and plasticity index are generally rounded to the nearest 5 percent. Thus, if the ranges of gradation and Atterberg limits extend a marginal amount (1 or 2 percentage points) across classification boundaries, the classification in the marginal zone is omitted in the table.

WATER FEATURES

This section gives estimates of various water features. The estimates are used in land use planning that involves engineering considerations.

Hydrologic soil groups are based on estimates of runoff potential. Soils are assigned to one of four groups according to the rate of water infiltration when the soils are not protected by vegetation, are thoroughly wet, and receive precipitation from long-duration storms.

The four hydrologic soil groups are:

Group A. Soils having a high infiltration rate (low runoff potential) when thoroughly wet. These consist mainly of deep, well drained to excessively drained sands or gravelly sands. These soils have a high rate of water transmission.

Group B. Soils having a moderate infiltration rate when thoroughly wet. These consist chiefly of moderately deep or deep, moderately well drained or well drained soils that have moderately fine texture to moderately coarse texture. These soils have a moderate rate of water transmission.

Group C. Soils having a slow infiltration rate when thoroughly wet. These consist chiefly of soils having a layer that impedes the downward movement of water or soils of moderately fine texture or fine texture. These soils have a slow rate of water transmission.

Group D. Soils having a very slow infiltration rate (high runoff potential) when thoroughly wet. These consist chiefly of clays that have a high shrink-swell potential, soils that have a high water table, soils that have a claypan or clay layer at or near the surface, and soils that are shallow over nearly impervious material. These soils have a very slow rate of water transmission.

If a soil is assigned to two hydrologic groups in the table, the first letter is for drained areas and the second is for undrained areas.

Flooding, the temporary inundation of an area, is caused by overflowing streams, by runoff from adjacent slopes, or by tides. Water standing for short periods after rainfall or snowmelt is not considered flooding, and water standing in swamps and marshes is considered ponding rather than flooding.

The table gives the frequency and duration of flooding and the time of year when flooding is most likely.

Frequency, duration, and probable dates of occurrence are estimated. Frequency is expressed as none, rare, occasional, and frequen*t*. *None* means that flooding is not

probable; *rare* that it is unlikely but possible under unusual weather conditions (the chance of flooding is nearly 0 percent to 5 percent in any year); *occasional* that it occurs, on the average, once or less in 2 years (the chance of flooding is 5 to 50 percent in any year); and *frequent* that it occurs, on the average, more than once in 2 years (the chance of flooding is more than 50 percent in any year). *Common*<p> is used when the occasional and frequent classes are grouped for certain purposes. Duration is expressed as *very brief* if less than 2 days, *brief* if 2 to 7 days, *long* if 7 days to 1 month, and *very long* if more than 1 month. Probable dates are expressed in months. About two-thirds to three-fourths of all flooding occurs during the stated period.

The information is based on evidence in the soil profile, namely thin strata of gravel, sand, silt, or clay deposited by floodwater; irregular decrease in organic matter content with increasing depth; and little or no horizon development.

Also considered are local information about the extent and levels of flooding and the relation of each soil on the landscape to historic floods. Information on the extent of flooding based on soil data is less specific than that provided by detailed engineering surveys that delineate flood-prone areas at specific flood frequency levels.

High water table (seasonal) is the highest level of a saturated zone in the soil in most years. The estimates are based mainly on observations of the water table at selected sites and on the evidence of a saturated zone, namely grayish colors or mottles (redoximorphic features) in the soil. Indicated in the table are the depth to the seasonal high water table; the kind of water table=that is, perched, apparent, or artesian; and the months of the year that the water table commonly is high. A water table that is seasonally high for less than 1 month is not indicated in the table.

An *apparent* water table is a thick zone of free water in the soil. It is indicated by the level at which water stands in an uncased borehole after adequate time is allowed for adjustment in the surrounding soil. A *perched* water table is water standing above an unsaturated zone. In places an upper, or perched, water table is separated from a lower one by a dry zone. An *artesian* water table is under hydrostatic head, generally below an impermeable layer. When this layer is penetrated, the water level rises in an uncased borehole.

Two numbers in the column showing depth to the water table indicate the normal range in depth to a saturated zone. Depth is given to the nearest half foot. The first numeral in the range indicates the highest water level. A plus sign preceding the range in depth indicates that the water table is above the surface of the soil. "More than 6.0" indicates that the water table is below a depth of 6 feet or that it is within a depth of 6 feet for less than a month.

SOIL FEATURES

This section gives estimates of various soil features. The estimates are used in land use planning that involves engineering considerations.

A **restrictive layer** is a nearly continuous layer that has one or more physical, chemical, or thermal properties that significantly impede the movement of water and air through the soil or that restrict roots or otherwise provide an unfavorable root environment. Examples are bedrock, cemented layers, dense layers, and frozen layers. The table indicates the hardness and thickness of the restrictive layer, both of which significantly affect the ease of excavation. *Depth to top* is the vertical distance from the soil surface to the upper boundary of the restrictive layer.

Potential frost action is the likelihood of upward or lateral expansion of the soil caused by the formation of segregated ice lenses (frost heave) and the subsequent collapse of the soil and loss of strength on thawing. Frost action occurs when moisture moves into the freezing zone of the soil. Temperature, texture, density, permeability, content of organic matter, and depth to the water table are the most important factors considered in evaluating the potential for frost action. It is assumed that the soil is not insulated by vegetation or snow and is not artificially drained. Silty and highly structured, clayey soils that have a high water table in winter are the most susceptible to frost action. Well drained, very gravelly, or very sandy soils are the least susceptible. Frost heave and low soil strength during thawing cause damage mainly to pavements and other rigid structures.

Risk of corrosion pertains to potential soil-induced electrochemical or chemical action that dissolves or weakens uncoated steel or concrete. The rate of corrosion of uncoated steel is related to such factors as soil moisture, particle-size distribution, acidity, and electrical conductivity of the soil. The rate of corrosion of concrete is based mainly on the sulfate and sodium content, texture, moisture content, and acidity of the soil. Special site examination and design may be needed if the combination of factors results in a severe hazard of corrosion. The steel in installations that intersect soil boundaries or soil layers is more susceptible to corrosion than steel in installations that are entirely within one kind of soil or within one soil layer.

For uncoated steel, the risk of corrosion, expressed as <i>*low, moderate,* or *high*, is based on soil drainage class, total acidity, electrical resistivity near field capacity, and electrical conductivity of the saturation extract.

For concrete, the risk of corrosion is also expressed as *low, moderate,* or *high*. It is based on soil texture, acidity, and amount of sulfates in the saturation extract.

WASTE DISPOSAL INTERPRETATIONS

Sanitary Facilities

The nature of the soil is important in selecting sites for sanitary facilities (such as sanitary landfills and sewage lagoons, septic tank absorption fields) and indentifying limiting site features and soil properties to be considered in planning, design, and installation. The sanitary facilities table, with accompanying explanation in this subsection, can be used as a guide m developing sanitary facilities.

Agriculture Waste Management

The nature of the soil is also important in the application of organic wastes and wastewater to land as fertilizers and irrigation. It is also important when the soil is used as a medium for treatment and disposal of these wastes. Favorable soil properties are required to prevent environmental damage.

The use of organic wastes and wastewater as production resources will result in energy conservation, prevent problems associated with their disposal, and prevent the waste of these important resources. Where disposal is the goal and a maximum amount is disposed in a minimum area to hold costs to a minimum, the risk of environmental damage is the principal constraint. Where the reuse goal is pursued and a minimum amount is applied to a maximum area to obtain the greatest benefit, environmental damage is unlikely.

Interpretations developed for waste management may include ratings for manure and food processing wastes; municipal sewage sludge; treatment of wastewater by the overland flow process, rapid infiltration process, or slow rate process; and wastewater use of irrigation. If available, these should be located in this subsection.

This subsection contains the following:

SANITARY FACILITIES

The soils of the survey area are rated in tables ENG-5 and ENG-6 according to limitations that affect their suitability for sanitary facilities. Soils are rated for septic tank absorption fields, sewage lagoons, sanitary landfills, and daily cover for landfill.

The ratings in the table are both verbal and numerical. Rating class terms indicate the extent to which the soils are limited by all of the soil features that affect sanitary facilities. Not limited indicates that the soil has features that are very favorable for the specified use. Good performance and very low maintenance can be expected. Slightly limited indicates that the soil has features that are favorable for the specified use. The limitations are minor and can be easily overcome. Good performance and low maintenance can be expected. Moderately limited indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning, design, or installation. Fair performance and moderate maintenance can be expected. Limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are significant limitations for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome, but overcoming them generally requires special design, soil reclamation, or installation procedures that may result in additional expense. Fair performance and moderate or high maintenance can be expected. Very limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified use. The limitations generally cannot be overcome without major soil reclamation, special design, or expensive
installation procedures. Poor performance and high maintenance can be expected.

Numerical ratings in the table indicate the severity of individual limitations. The numerical ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.00 to 1.00. Limitation classes are assigned as follows:

Not limited	0.00
Slightly limited	0.01 to 0.30
Moderately limited	0.31 to 0.60
Limited	0.61 to 0.99
Very limited	1.00

The numerical ratings used to express the severity of individual limitations indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the use and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation.

Limitation class terms and numerical ratings are shown for each limiting soil feature listed. As many as three soil features may be listed for each component. The overall limitation rating for the component is based on the most severe limitation.

Septic tank absorption fields are areas in which effluent from a septic tank is distributed into the soil through subsurface tiles or perforated pipe. Only that part of

the soil between depths of 24 and 60 inches is evaluated. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect absorption of the effluent, construction and maintenance of the system, and public health. Permeability, a water table, ponding, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, and flooding affect absorption of the effluent. Stones and boulders, ice, and bedrock or a cemented pan interfere with installation. Subsidence interferes with installation and maintenance. Excessive slope may cause lateral seepage and surfacing of the effluent in downslope areas.

Some soils are underlain by loose sand and gravel or fractured bedrock at a depth of less than 4 feet below the distribution lines. In these soils the absorption field may not adequately filter the effluent, particularly when the system is new. As a result, the ground water may be contaminated. Unsatisfactory performance of septic tank absorption fields, including excessively slow absorption of effluent, surfacing of effluent, hillside seepage, and contamination of ground water, can affect public health.

Sewage lagoons are shallow ponds constructed to hold sewage while aerobic bacteria decompose the solid and liquid wastes. Lagoons should have a nearly level floor surrounded by cut slopes or embankments of compacted soil. Nearly impervious soil material for the lagoon floor and sides is required to minimize seepage and contamination of ground water. Considered in the ratings are slope, permeability, a water table, ponding, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, flooding, large stones, and content of organic matter.

Soil permeability is a critical property affecting the suitability for sewage lagoons. Most porous soils eventually become sealed when they are used as sites for sewage lagoons. Until sealing occurs, however, the hazard of pollution is severe. Soils that have a permeability rate of more than 2 inches per hour are too porous for the proper functioning of sewage lagoons. In these soils, seepage of the effluent can result in contamination of the ground water. Ground-water contamination is also a hazard if fractured bedrock is within a depth of 40 inches, if the water table is high enough to raise the level of sewage in the lagoon, or if floodwater overtops the lagoon.

A high content of organic matter is detrimental to proper functioning of the lagoon because it inhibits aerobic activity. Slope, bedrock, and cemented pans can cause construction problems, and large stones can hinder compaction of the lagoon floor. If the lagoon is to be uniformly deep throughout, slope must be gentle enough and the soil material must be thick enough over bedrock or a cemented pan to make land smoothing practical.

A trench sanitary landfill is an area where solid waste is placed in successive layers in an excavated trench. The waste is spread, compacted, and covered daily with a thin layer of soil excavated at the site. When the trench is full, a final cover of soil material at least 2 feet thick is placed over the landfill. The ratings in the table are based on the soil properties that affect the risk of pollution, the ease of excavation, trafficability, and revegetation. These properties include permeability, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, a water table, ponding, slope, flooding, texture, stones and boulders, highly organic layers, soil reaction, and content of salts and sodium. Unless otherwise

stated, the ratings apply only to that part of the soil within a depth of about 6 feet. For deeper trenches, onsite investigation may be needed.

Hard, nonrippable bedrock, creviced bedrock, or highly permeable strata in or directly below the proposed trench bottom can affect the ease of excavation and the hazard of ground-water pollution. Slope affects construction of the trenches and the movement of surface water around the landfill. It also affects the construction and performance of roads in areas of the landfill.

Soil texture and consistence affect the ease with which the trench is dug and the ease with which the soil can be used as daily or final cover. They determine the workability of the soil when dry and when wet. Soils that are plastic and sticky when wet are difficult to excavate, grade, or compact and are difficult to place as a uniformly thick cover over a layer of refuse.

The soil material used as the final cover for a trench landfill should be suitable for plants. It should not have excess sodium or salts and should not be too acid. The surface layer generally has the best workability, the highest content of organic matter, and the best potential for plants. Material from the surface layer should be stockpiled for use as the final cover.

In an area sanitary landfill, solid waste is placed in successive layers on the surface of the soil. The waste is spread, compacted, and covered daily with a thin layer of soil from a source away from the site. A final cover of soil material at least 2 feet thick is placed over the completed landfill. The ratings in the table are based on the soil properties that affect trafficability and the risk of pollution. These properties include flooding, permeability, a water table, ponding, slope, and depth to bedrock or a cemented pan.

Flooding is a serious problem because it can result in pollution in areas downstream from the landfill. If permeability is too rapid or if fractured bedrock, a fractured cemented pan, or the water table is close to the surface, the leachate can contaminate the water supply. Slope is a consideration because of the extra grading required to maintain roads in the steeper areas of the landfill. Also, leachate may flow along the surface of the soils in the steeper areas and cause difficult seepage problems.

Daily cover for landfill is the soil material that is used to cover compacted solid waste in an area sanitary landfill. The soil material is obtained offsite, transported to the landfill, and spread over the waste. The ratings in the table also apply to the final cover for a landfill. They are based on the soil properties that affect workability, the ease of digging, and the ease of moving and spreading the material over the refuse daily during wet and dry periods. These properties include soil texture, a water table, ponding, rock fragments, slope, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, reaction, and content of salts, sodium, or lime.

Loamy or silty soils that are free of large stones and excess gravel are the best cover

for a landfill. Clayey soils may be sticky and difficult to spread; sandy soils are subject to wind erosion.

Slope affects the ease of excavation and of moving the cover material. Also, it can influence runoff, erosion, and reclamation of the borrow area.

After soil material has been removed, the soil material remaining in the borrow area must be thick enough over bedrock, a cemented pan, or the water table to permit revegetation. The soil material used as the final cover for a landfill should be suitable for plants. It should not have excess sodium, salts, or lime and should not be too acid.

AGRICULTURE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Soil properties are important considerations in areas where soils are used as sites for the treatment and disposal of organic waste and wastewater. Selection of soils with properties that favor waste management can help to prevent environmental damage.

Table AWM-1 and AWM-2 show the degree and kind of soil limitations affecting the treatment of agricultural waste, including municipal and food-processing wastewater and effluent from lagoons or storage ponds. Municipal wastewater is the waste stream from a municipality. It contains domestic waste and may contain industrial waste. It may have received primary or secondary treatment. It is rarely untreated sewage. Food-processing wastewater results from the preparation of fruits, vegetables, milk, cheese, and meats for public consumption. In places it is high in content of sodium and chloride. In the context of this table, the effluent in lagoons and storage ponds is from facilities used to treat or store food-processing wastewater or domestic or animal waste. Domestic and food-processing wastewater is very dilute, and the effluent from the facilities that treat or store it commonly is very low in content of carbonaceous and nitrogenous material; the content of nitrogen commonly ranges from 10 to 30 mg/l. The wastewater from animal waste treatment lagoons or storage ponds, however, has much higher concentrations of these materials, mainly because the manure has not been diluted as much as the domestic waste. The content of nitrogen in this wastewater generally ranges from 50 to 2,000 mg/l. When wastewater is applied, checks should be made to ensure that nitrogen, heavy metals, and salts are not added in excessive amounts.

The ratings in the table are for waste management systems that not only dispose of and treat organic waste or wastewater but also are beneficial to crops (application of manure and food-processing waste, application of sewage sludge, and disposal of wastewater through irrigation) and for waste management systems that are designed only for the purpose of wastewater disposal and treatment (slow rate treatment of wastewater and rapid infiltration of wastewater).

The ratings in the table are both verbal and numerical. Rating class terms indicate the extent to which the soils are limited by all of the soil features that affect the specified use. Not limited indicates that the soil has features that are very favorable for the specified use. Good performance and very low maintenance can be expected. Slightly limited indicates that the soil has features that are favorable for the specified use. The limitations are minor and can be easily overcome. Good performance and low maintenance can be expected. Moderately limited indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning, design, or installation. Fair performance and moderate maintenance can be expected. Limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are significant limitations for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome, but overcoming them generally requires special design, soil reclamation, or installation procedures that may result in additional expense. Fair performance and moderate or high maintenance can be expected. Very limited indicates

that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified use. The limitations generally cannot be overcome without major soil reclamation, special design, or expensive installation procedures. Poor performance and high maintenance can be expected.

Numerical ratings in the table indicate the severity of individual limitations. The numerical ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.00 to 1.00. Limitation classes are assigned as follows:

Not limited	0.00
Slightly limited	0.01 to 0.30
Moderately limited	0.31 to 0.60
Limited	0.61 to 0.99
Very limited	1.00

The numerical ratings used to express the severity of individual limitations indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the use and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation.

Limitation class terms and numerical ratings are shown for each limiting soil feature listed. As many as three soil features may be listed for each component. The overall limitation rating for the component is based on the most severe limitation.

Land application of manure and food-processing waste not only disposes of waste material but also improves crop production by increasing the supply of nutrients in the soils where the material is applied. Manure is the excrement of livestock and poultry, and food-processing waste is damaged fruit and vegetables and the peelings, stems, leaves, pits, and soil particles removed in food preparation. The manure and food-processing waste are either solid, slurry, or liquid. Their nitrogen content varies. A high content of nitrogen limits the application rate. Toxic or otherwise dangerous wastes, such as those mixed with the lye used in food processing, are not considered in the ratings.

The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect absorption, plant growth, microbial activity, erodibility, the rate at which the waste is applied, and the method by which the waste is applied. The properties that affect absorption include permeability, a water table, ponding, the sodium adsorption ratio, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, and available water capacity. The properties that affect plant growth and microbial activity include reaction, the sodium adsorption ratio, salinity, and bulk density. The wind erodibility group, the soil erodibility factor K, and slope are considered in estimating the likelihood of wind erosion or water erosion. Stones, cobbles, a water table, ponding, and flooding can hinder the application of waste.

Land application of municipal sewage sludge not only disposes of waste material but also improves crop production by increasing the supply of nutrients in the soils where the material is applied. In the context of this table, sewage sludge is the residual product of the treatment of municipal sewage. The solid component consists mainly of cell mass,

primarily bacteria cells that developed during secondary treatment and have incorporated soluble organics into their own bodies. The sludge has small amounts of sand, silt, and other solid debris. The content of nitrogen varies. Some sludge has constituents that are toxic to plants or hazardous to the food chain, such as heavy metals and exotic organic compounds, and should be analyzed chemically prior to use.

The content of water in the sludge ranges from about 98 percent to less than 40 percent. The sludge is considered liquid if it is more than about 90 percent water, slurry if it is about 50 to 90 percent water, and solid if it is less than about 50 percent water.

The ratings in the table are based on the soil properties that affect absorption, plant growth, microbial activity, erodibility, the rate at which the sludge is applied, and the method by which the sludge is applied. The properties that affect absorption, plant growth, and microbial activity include permeability, a water table, ponding, the sodium adsorption ratio, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, available water capacity, reaction, salinity, and bulk density. The wind erodibility group, the soil erodibility factor K, and slope are considered in estimating the likelihood of wind erosion or water erosion. Stones, cobbles, a water table, ponding, and flooding can hinder the application of sludge.

Disposal of wastewater by irrigation not only disposes of municipal wastewater and wastewater from food-processing plants, lagoons, and storage ponds but also improves crop production by increasing the amount of water available to crops. The ratings in the table are based on the soil properties that affect the design, construction, management, and performance of the irrigation system. The properties that affect design and management include the sodium adsorption ratio, a water table, ponding, available water capacity, permeability, slope, and flooding. The properties that affect construction include stones, cobbles, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, a water table, and ponding. The properties that affect performance include depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, bulk density, the sodium adsorption ratio, salinity, reaction, and the cation-exchange capacity, which is used to estimate the capacity of a soil to adsorb heavy metals.

Slow rate treatment of wastewater is a process in which wastewater is applied to land at a rate normally between 0.5 inch and 4.0 inches per week. The application rate commonly exceeds the rate needed for irrigation of cropland. The applied wastewater is treated as it moves through the soil. Much of the treated water percolates to the ground water, and some enters the atmosphere through evapotranspiration. The applied water generally is not allowed to run off the surface. Waterlogging is prevented either through control of the application rate or through the use of tile drains, or both.

The ratings in the table are based on the soil properties that affect absorption, plant growth, microbial activity, erodibility, and the application of waste. The properties that affect absorption include the sodium adsorption ratio, a water table, ponding, available water capacity, permeability, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, reaction, the cation-exchange capacity, and slope. Reaction, the sodium adsorption ratio, salinity, and bulk density affect plant growth and microbial activity. The wind erodibility group, the

soil erodibility factor K, and slope are considered in estimating the likelihood of wind erosion or water erosion. Stones, cobbles, a water table, ponding, and flooding can hinder the application of waste.

Rapid infiltration of wastewater is a process in which wastewater applied in a level basin at a rate of 4 to 120 inches per week percolates through the soil, eventually reaching the ground water. The application rate commonly exceeds the rate needed for irrigation of cropland. Vegetation is not a necessary part of the treatment; hence, the basins may or may not be vegetated. The thickness of the soil material needed for proper treatment of the wastewater is more than 72 inches. As a result, geologic and hydrologic investigation is needed to ensure proper design and performance and to determine the risk of ground-water pollution.

The ratings in the table are based on the soil properties that affect the risk of pollution and the design, construction, and performance of the system. A water table, ponding, flooding, and depth to bedrock or a cemented pan affect the risk of pollution and the design and construction of the system. Slope, stones, and cobbles also affect design and construction. Permeability and reaction affect performance.

HYDRIC SOIL INTERPRETATIONS

Hydric soils are developed under conditions sufficiently wet to support the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation. This listing includes phases of soil series that may or may not have been drained. Some soil series, designated as hydric, have phases that are not hydric depending on flooding, ponding characteristics, and water table.

This list will have a number of agricultural and nonagricultural applications. These include assessment of potential wildlife habitat, assistance in land-use planning, and conservation planning. An area that meets the hydic soil criteria must also meet the hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology criteria in order for it to be classified as a jurisdictional wetland *(see the "Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands, "* 1989).

Definition of Hydric Soil

A hydric soil is a soil that is flooded, ponded, or saturated long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part. The following criteria reflect those soils that meet this definition.

Criteria for Hydric Soils

1. **All** Histosols except Folists, or

2. Soils in Albolls suborder, Aquic subgroup, Aquic suborder, Cumulic subgroups, Pachic subgroups, Pell great groups of Vertisols, or Salorthids great groups that are:

   a. Somewhat poorly drained and have a frequently occurring water table at less than 0.5 feet from the surface for a significant period *(usually more than two weeks)* during the growing season, or

   b. poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:

   (1) a frequently occurring water table at less than 0.5 feet from the surface for a significant period *(usually more than two weeks)* during the growing season if textures are coarse sand, fine sand, or sand in all layers within 20 inches, or for other soils.

   (2) a frequently occurring water table at less than 1.0 foot from the surface for a significant period *(usually more than two weeks)* during the growing season if permeability is equal to or greater than 6.0 inches/hour in all layers with 20 inches, or

   (3) a frequently occurring water table at less than 1.5 feet from the surface for a

significant period *(usually more than two weeks)* during the growing season if permeability is less than 6.0 inches/hour in any layer within 20 inches, or

3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long duration or very long duration during the growing season, or

4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long duration or very long duration during the growing season.

WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY INTERPRETATIONS

Information in this subsection can be used to plan the use and management of soil for pesticide interactions, interactions with nitrates and soluble nutrients and water management for crops or pasture. Conservation planners and others using this information can evaluate the effect of pesticides, nitrates and other nutrients on productivity and on the environment in all or part of the county. This information can be used to maintain or create a land use pattern that is in harmony with the natural soil.

This subsection contains the following:

SOIL-PESTICIDE LOSS POTENTIAL

General

Soil-pesticide interaction ratings help determine the potential for pesticide loss from surface runoff and from leaching or percolation below the root zone when a specific pesticide is used on a specific soil.

Soil and Pesticide Ranking

Soils are ranked according to potential for pesticide loss from leaching and from surface runoff. The following table lists the soil name, map symbol, leaching potential, and surface loss potential. The soil leaching potential and surface loss potential are ranked as severe (,high moderate (intermediate), or slight (nominal).

Pesticides **are also** ranked according to potential for loss to surface runoff and leaching. The pesticide leaching and runoff potential tables are in the Pesticide Data Base section of the Arkansas Water Quality Manual. In this section there is z list of pesticide properties that include the surface loss potential and leaching potential for each pesticide. The surface loss potential is ranked as lame, medium, or small. The leaching potential is ranked as lame, medium, small, or total use.

Procedure

The field office staff should determine the water resource concern (e.g. ground water or surface water quality), then select the appropriate procedure from the Soil-Pesticide Rating section of the Arkansas Water Quality Manual. The respective procedure determines the potential loss of a pesticide when used on a particular soil.

SOIL RATING FOR NITRATE AND SOLUBLE NUTRIENTS

General

This section provides a way to determine the degree to which water percolates below the root zone in certain soils. Percolating water containing dissolved nitrates or other soluble nutrients could be a hazard to ground water. The method is based on a Leaching Index (LI).

For areas with ground water concerns, the LI should be determined to evaluate the potential for contaminating the ground water with soluble nutrients. The LI uses annual precipitation, hydrologic soil group, and rainfall distribution data.

Leaching Index

A LI rating was developed for each soil in the county (see the following table) using local weather station data. If the soil has a high LI and is over a shallow aquifer, soluble nutrients (especially nitrates) may contaminate the water.

The LI does not account for irrigation. If irrigation is applied only to supply needs, there will be little additional loss below the root zone. The additional loss would be relative to the precipitation events after the soil profile is saturated or nearly saturated due to irrigation.

In areas of marginal water quality, the amount of irrigation water applied includes a leaching fraction to insure that salts do not build in the soil. If a leaching fraction is applied, this amount of water must be added to the LL

Guidelines For Using LI

1. A LI less than 2 inches would probably not contribute to soluble nutrient leaching below the root zone.

2. A LI between 2 and 10 inches may contribute to soluble nutrient leaching below the root zone and nutrient management should be considered.

3. A LI greater than 10 inches will contribute to soluble nutrient leaching below the root zone. Nutrient management practices should be intense or soluble nutrients should not be applied. Also, consider using conservation practices that minimize infiltration, such as strip cropping rather than pipe outlet terraces.

SOIL POTENTIAL FOR SURFACE RUNOFF AND EROSION

SURFACE RUNOFF

Runoff is the water that flows away from the soil over the surface without infiltrating. The water may come from precipitation or water originating from adjacent areas.

The soil properties and features considered in making these ratings are those that affect rates of runoff and erosion. These soil properties and features are soil texture, organic matter content, structure, particle size distribution, permeability, restricting layers, depth, drainage, depth to water table, slope, and shrink-swell potential. Runoff is represented by slope and the soil hydrologic up which considers soil texture, permeability, restrictive layers, depth, drainage, and shrink-swell potential. Soil erodibility is represented by the K factor which is estimated from soil particle size distribution, organic matter content, structure, and permeability.

Nutrients and/or pesticides may be transported by surface runoff either in solution or adsorbed to sediments suspended in runoff. Surface transported nutrients and pesticides have a potential to contaminate surface waters such as lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Runoff can be significantly different on a soil under natural cover, under cultivation, and under different kinds of management. Kind or amount of cover on the soil surface was not considered in developing these ratings.

Slopes greater than 15 percent require local consideration for runoff potential or surface loss of nutrients or pesticides. Ratings may need to be adjusted by one class to account for steeper areas.

Flooding and ponding also have the potential of causing significant surface loss of nutrients and/or pesticides. Flooding may remove large quantities of nutrients and/or pesticides either in solution or adsorbed on sediments in a single event. Ponding can concentrate surface transported nutrients or pesticides, and draining ponded areas will adversely affect the receiving surface waters.

Refer to the Soil-Pesticide Loss Potential Table for runoff potential ratings for individual soils.

WATER MANAGEMENT

The soils of the survey area are rated in table WAT-1 and WAT-2 according to limitations that affect their suitability for water management. Soils are rated for pond reservoir areas, drainage, irrigation, terraces and diversions, and grassed waterways. Restrictive features that affect each soil for the specified use are also listed in the table.

The ratings in the table are both verbal and numerical. Rating class terms indicate the extent to which the soils are limited by all of the soil features that affect the specified use. Not limited indicates that the soil has features that are very favorable for the specified use. Good performance and very low maintenance can be expected. Slightly limited indicates that the soil has features that are favorable for the specified use. The limitations are minor and can be easily overcome. Good performance and low maintenance can be expected. Moderately limited indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning, design, or installation. Fair performance and moderate maintenance can be expected. Limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are significant limitations for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome, but overcoming them generally requires special design, soil reclamation, or installation procedures that may result in additional expense. Fair performance and moderate or high maintenance can be expected. Very limited indicates that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified use. The limitations generally cannot be overcome without major soil reclamation, special design, or expensive installation procedures. Poor performance and high maintenance can be expected.

Numerical ratings in the table indicate the severity of individual limitations. The numerical ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.00 to 1.00. Limitation classes are assigned as follows:

Not limited	0.00
Slightly limited	0.01 to 0.30
Moderately limited	0.31 to 0.60
Limited	0.61 to 0.99
Very limited	1.00

The numerical ratings used to express the severity of individual limitations indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the use and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation.

Limitation class terms and numerical ratings are shown for each limiting soil feature listed. As many as three soil features may be listed for each component. The overall limitation rating for the component is based on the most severe limitation.

Pond reservoir areas hold water behind a dam or embankment. Soils best suited to this use have low seepage potential in the upper 60 inches. The seepage potential is determined by the permeability of the soil and the depth to fractured bedrock, or other permeable material. Slope can affect the storage capacity of the reservoir area.

Drainage is the removal of excess surface and subsurface water from the soil. How easily and effectively the soil is drained depends on the depth to bedrock, permeability, depth to a water table, ponding, slope, and flooding. Excavating and grading and the stability of ditchbanks are affected by depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, large stones, slope, and the likelihood that cutbanks will cave. The productivity of the soil after drainage is adversely affected by extreme acidity or by toxic substances in the root zone, such as salts, sodium, and sulfur. The availability of drainage outlets is not considered in the ratings.

Irrigation is the controlled application of water to supplement rainfall and support plant growth. The design and management of an irrigation system are affected by depth to a water table, ponding, flooding, available water capacity, intake rate, permeability, erodibility, and slope. The construction of a system is affected by large stones and depth to bedrock. The performance of a system is affected by the depth of the root zone, reaction, and the amount of salts, sodium, sulfur, lime, or gypsum.

Terraces and diversions are embankments or a combination of channels and ridges constructed across a slope to control erosion and conserve moisture by intercepting runoff. Slope, a water table, ponding, large stones, and depth to bedrock affect the construction of terraces and diversions. A restricted rooting depth, erodibility, an excessively coarse texture, and restricted permeability adversely affect maintenance.

Grassed waterways are natural or constructed channels, generally broad and shallow, that conduct surface water to outlets at a nonerosive velocity. Large stones, a water table, slope, and depth to bedrock affect the construction of grassed waterways. Erodibility, soil moisture regime, available water capacity, restricted rooting depth, restricted permeability, and toxic substances, such as salts and sodium, affect the growth and maintenance of the grass after construction.
Information in this section can be used to plan the use and management of soils for nonagricultural uses; such as, sites for buildings, sanitary facilities, highways and other transportation systems, and parks and other recreational facilities; and for wildlife habitat. It can be used to identify the potentials and limitations of each soil for specific land uses and to help prevent construction failures caused by unfavorable soil properties.